

19028. Misbranding of Steketee's neuralgia drops. U. S. v. 2⁵/₈ Dozen Bottles of Steketee's Neuralgia Drops. Default decree of condemnation, forfeiture, and destruction. (F. & D. No. 26998. I. S. No. 36513. S. No. 5203.)

Examination of a drug product, known as Steketee's neuralgia drops, from the shipment herein described having shown that the article contained no ingredient or combination of ingredients capable of producing certain curative and therapeutic effects claimed for it in the labeling, the Secretary of Agriculture reported the matter to the United States attorney for the Northern District of Illinois.

On September 29, 1931, the United States attorney filed in the District Court of the United States for the district aforesaid a libel praying seizure and condemnation of two and five-sixths dozen bottles of Steketee's neuralgia drops at Chicago, Ill., alleging that the article had been shipped by the Hazeltine & Perkins Drug Co., from Grand Rapids, Mich., on or about April 30, 1931, and had been transported from the State of Michigan into the State of Illinois, and charging misbranding in violation of the food and drugs act as amended.

Analysis of a sample of the article by this department showed that it consisted essentially of Peru balsam, a small proportion of volatile oil, alcohol (45.6 per cent), and water.

It was alleged in the libel that the article was misbranded in that the following statements appearing on the bottle and carton labels and in the circular, regarding the curative or therapeutic effects of the said article, were false and fraudulent, and the said statements were applied to the article, so as to represent falsely and fraudulently that the said article contained ingredients or medicinal agents effective as a remedy for the diseases, ailments, and afflictions mentioned therein: (Carton) "Neuralgia Drops The Woman's Friend. * * * recommend it for the relief of Neuralgia, Headache and Backache. It is recommended for quieting pains no matter where pain may be located. Neuralgia of the womb, ulcerations of the womb and inflammation of the womb. (It is used as an injection for the last named ailments.) It is used to stop Bleeding * * * and Old Sores, Barber or other itching on any part of the body. * * * Neuralgia Drops * * * A remedy for Neuralgia, Rheumatism, Kidney and Liver Complaints, Chronic Headache and Pains in the Back * * * This Remedy is also used for * * * Old Sores, on Man or Beast;" (bottle) "Neuralgia Drops * * * A Remedy for Neuralgia, Rheumatism, Kidney and Liver Complaints, Chronic Headache, Pains in the Back and Toothache, * * * Directions—For adults, 20 drops three times a day, * * * The contents of this bottle should be used in order to derive any benefit;" (circular) "Neuralgia Drops A wonderful remedy for Neuralgia, Neuritis, Rheumatism, Arthritis, in fact for all pain in any form."

On November 24, 1931, no claimant having appeared for the property, judgment of condemnation and forfeiture was entered, and it was ordered by the court that the product be destroyed by the United States marshal.

ARTHUR M. HYDE, *Secretary of Agriculture.*

19029. Misbranding of Grafanol ointment. U. S. v. 150 Jars of Grafanol Ointment. Consent decree of condemnation and forfeiture. Product released under bond. (F. & D. No. 26169. I. S. No. 27129. S. No. 4438.)

Examination of a drug product, known as Grafanol ointment, from the shipments herein described having shown that the circular bore statements representing that the article possessed curative and therapeutic properties which it did not possess, the Secretary of Agriculture reported the matter to the United States attorney for the Northern District of Texas.

On April 17, 1931, the United States attorney filed in the District Court of the United States for the district aforesaid a libel praying seizure and condemnation of 150 jars of Grafanol ointment, remaining in the original packages at Dallas, Tex., alleging that the article had been shipped by R. F. Grafa & Sons, from Durant, Okla., at various times between November 8, 1930, and the time of filing the libel, and had been transported from the State of Oklahoma into the State of Texas, and charging misbranding in violation of the food and drugs act as amended.

Analysis of a sample of the article by this department showed that it consisted essentially of petroleum products (61.5 per cent), mineral matter (8 per cent), and water (30.5 per cent).

It was alleged in the libel that the article was misbranded in that the following statements appearing in the circular accompanying the article, regarding its curative or therapeutic effects, were false and fraudulent, since it contained no ingredient or combination of ingredients capable of producing the effects claimed: "Letters from users testify it relieves pain * * * reduces inflammations * * * Doctors say it is a stimulant, antiseptic and emolient. We have hundreds of letters telling of many astonishing cases which it has affected favorably. * * * [Testimonials] 'I suffered from Catarrh of head and throat beginning more than forty years ago. At the time (about September 1, 1926), it had become a very bad chronic case. I noticed improvement, as rapidly as could be expected from a case of so long standing.' * * * 'I had a skin cancer, which had been on me for about three years. I used your treatment about three months, now it is entirely well.' * * * 'I have been troubled with protruding piles since I was 17 years old and I am now 55 years old. A friend gave me a jar of your ointment and I have used it less than three weeks and I am entirely cured.' * * * 'Will say that on about the first of May, 1927, my wife had a breaking out on her ankles (red and inflamed). * * * I called in a local physician who pronounced it acute pellagra in the worst form (told me privately that there was no chance for her), that she might live a month and might not, she had not walked for two weeks. * * * (on Thursday after the other doctor was there on Wednesday). I applied the Grafanol every 24 hours to her limbs and she walked out on the porch Sunday. We continued the treatment for about two weeks, and she seemed as well as ever. * * * She has no appearance of pellagra at this date. We can sure recommend Grafanol as an external treatment for pellagra.' * * * 'It gives me great pleasure indeed to recommend your unknown remedy for piles. * * * Upon your insistence I tried your remedy and after only one application I am completely cured.' * * * 'I have used the wonderful product you gave me and want to say it has given me immediate relief from the pain and soreness. I have had several years a severe case of hemorrhoids, and I find this salve stops the pain at once, and I believe if used consistently will eventually cure the trouble.' * * * 'I have been a sufferer from eczema for twenty years, have tried all kinds of remedies. Will say that after giving your sample a fair trial, that all showing of this trouble has entirely disappeared.' * * * 'I have used your black ointment for piles, having had one of the very worst cases for years * * * After using two large jars I am now entirely well. I also used the mater and salve for rheumatism, and have had big results.' * * * 'I can highly recommend the use of Grafanol in cases of bed sores. I had an enormous bed sore that defied all efforts to heal it for six months.' * * * 'I had nose trouble for about three (3) years and was told that I would have to have an operation to clear up the trouble (sinus trouble). Your friend, Mr. Fred C. Dunlap, gave me some of your medicine, the name I can not remember, but it was a black salve. I put it into my nose one time and for one week water ran from my nose, but at last it quit. I think about the tenth day. It is nine weeks since I applied the medicine, and all traces of my trouble seem to be gone.' * * * 'I had a skin sore on my face that was treated by some of the most skillful physicians in the country without results, only it continued to get worse. A neighbor told me about your medicine, of which I used three applications which cured me. That has been some eight months ago and there has been no sign of the sore since. Besides using it for my own use, I have given it to others who have used it for blood boils, leg sores, severe cuts, aches and pains in the body, all of which were quickly cured;'" (jar label) "For External Use—Extensively used for Eczema, Ringworm, * * * Chronic sores, Skin Cancer, Boils, Carbuncles, Poisonous insect bites, Sties, Sore Throat, Nasal Catarrh, * * * Bunions, * * * Piles, Swollen Joints, Rheumatism and other ailments of the flesh. * * * Directions—For * * * skin diseases, boils, rheumatism, etc. * * * For Piles * * * For Granulated Eye Lids * * * for Nasal Catarrh."

On May 26, 1931, the Maytubby Grafanol Co., Dallas, Tex., having appeared as claimant for the property and having consented to the entry of a decree, judgment of condemnation and forfeiture was entered, and it was ordered by the court that the product be released to the said claimant upon payment of costs and the execution of a bond in the sum of \$200, conditioned in part that it should not be sold or otherwise disposed of in violation of the law.

ARTHUR M. HYDE, *Secretary of Agriculture.*